Arch-Biſhop *Tillotſon's* VINDICATION OF Paſſive-Obedience AND Non-Reſiſtance, IN HIS LETTER To the Lord *Ruſſel*, the Day before his Execution, *July* 1683.

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Arch-Bishop *Tillotson's*

VINDICATION

OF

Passive-Obedience, &c.

My Lord,

I Was heartily glad to see your Lordship this Morning in that calm and devout temper at Receiving the Sacrament, but Peace of Mind unless it be well grounded will avail little: And because transient Discourse many times hath little effect for want of time to weigh and consider it, therefore in tender Compassion of your Lordships Case, and from all the

good Will that one Man can bear to another, I do humbly offer to your Lordſhips deliberate thoughts theſe following Conſiderations concerning the Points of Reſiſtance; if our Religion and Rights ſhould be invaded, as your Lordſhip puts the Caſe, concerning which I underſtood by Dr. *Burnet*, that your Lordſhip had once received ſatisfaction, and am ſorry to find a change.

Firſt, That the Chriſtian Religion doth plainly forbid the Reſiſtance of Authority.

Secondly, That though our Religion be Eſtabliſhed by Law, (which your Lordſhip urges as a difference between our Caſe, And that of the Primitive Chriſtians) yet

yet in the ſame Law, which Eſtabliſhes our Religion it is declared, That it is not Lawful upon any pretence whatſoever to take up Arms, *&c.* Beſides, That there is a particular Law declaring the Power of the *Militia* to be ſolely in the King. And this ties the hands of Subjects, though the Law of Nature, and the General Rules of Scripture had left us at liberty; which I believe they do not, becauſe the Government, and Peace of Humane Society could not well ſubſiſt on theſe Terms.

Thirdly, Your Lordſhips Opinion is contrary to the declared Doctrine of all Proteſtant Churches; and tho' ſome particular Perſons have taught otherwiſe, yet they have been contradicted here-

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in and condemned for it by the Generality of Proteſtants: And I beg of your Lordſhip to conſider how it will agree with an avowed aſſerting of the Proteſtant Religion, to go contrary to the general Doctrine of the Proteſtants. My End in this is to convince Your Lordſhip, that you are in a very Great and Dangerous miſtake, and being ſo convinced, that which before was a Sin of Ignorance, will appear of a much more heinous Nature, as in Truth it is, and call for a very particular and deep Repentance; which if your Lordſhip ſincerely exerciſe upon the ſight of your Error, by a Penitent Acknowledgement of it to God and Men, you will not only obtain Forgiveneſs of God, but prevent a mighty Scandal to the Reformed Religion.

I am

I am very loath to give your Lordſhip any diſquiet in the Diſtreſs you are in, which I commiſerate from my heart, but am much more concerned that you do not leave the World in a deluſion and falſe Peace, to the hindrance of your Eternal Happineſs. I heartily pray for you, and beſeech your Lordſhip to believe that I am with the greateſt Sincerity and Compaſſion in the World,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips moſt Faithful

and Afflicted Servant,

John Tillotſon.